

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added. Claims 1-38 are currently pending in the application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 6-8, 13, 16, 23-25, 30, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contended that the claims are inconsistent with the independent claims from which they depend. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In making the rejection, the Examiner stated:

Claims 6, 13, 23, and 30 are inconsistent with the claims from which they depend. Claims 6, 13,, 23, and 30 all recite the limitation "the second display is about to being [sic] experiencing a second blank period" relating to sending a response, which means that the second display is currently not experiencing a blank period during the response. However, independent claims 1 and 18, from which the above claims depend, recite the limitation that the proper time to send a response is at least partially during a period when both first and second displays are both experiencing a blank period. These two limitations are contradictory.

From this statement, it appears that the Examiner may be confusing the different time periods that are involved in the independent claims. In claims 1 and 18, there are two different time periods that are of note. The first is the time at which the response is sent (referred to in the claims as the "proper time"). The second is the time during which the operational parameter is actually adjusted (referred to in the claims as the "particular time period"). These time periods need not be the same. It is the second time period that has to coincide with the first and second displays experiencing a blank period. The first time period (the time at which the response is sent) may occur before, during, or after the

second display starts experiencing the second blank period. This is made clear in paragraph 33 of the Specification, which states:

In the above example, the responses 408 are shown as being sent right at the beginning of a horizontal blank period 404. It should be noted that this is not required. If so desired, a response 408 may be sent before or after the beginning of a horizontal blank period 404. For example, if there is a delay between the time a response 408 is sent and the time CPU 102 initiates an adjustment operation, it may be desirable to send the response 408 just prior to the beginning of a horizontal blank period 404 so that the CPU 102 can start its adjustment operation prior to or right at the beginning of the horizontal blank period 404. It is also possible to send a response 408 after the beginning of a horizontal blank period 404. This does not allow the full horizontal blank period 404 to be exploited, but it is a possibility nonetheless. So long as a response 408 is sent such that the resulting adjustment period 410 at least partially overlaps with a vertical blank period 402 and a horizontal blank period 404, the blank periods are advantageously exploited.

In light of this clarification, Applicants submit that there is no inconsistency between the dependent claims 6-8, 13, 16, 23-25, 30, and 33 and the independent claims 1 and 18. Thus, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 26, 28, 32, 34, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leske (US 5,473,385) in view of Shelton (US 6,046,709). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1

As it stands, claim 1 recites:

A method, comprising:

receiving a request from a component to adjust an operational parameter of the component; and

sending a response to the component at a proper time to cause the component to adjust the operational parameter, at least partially, during a

particular time period in which a first display and a second display are both experiencing a blank period.

As is made clear by the language, the method of claim 1 operates in a request-response fashion. Specifically, the method receives a request from a component to adjust an operational parameter of that component. Then, at a proper time, the method sends a response to the component to cause the component to adjust the operational parameter during a time period in which a first display and a second display are both experiencing a blank period. Such a request-response methodology is neither disclosed nor suggested by Leske and Shelton, taken individually or in combination.

Instead, Leske discloses a method for unilaterally adjusting the frequency of a decoding clock signal during the vertical blank period of a display. In Leske, the frequency of the decoding clock is adjusted as follows. Initially, a digital filter 64 (Fig. 3) provides an error value that is accumulated by an error accumulator 90. Col. 6, lines 5-7. The error accumulator 90 feeds an error signal generator 91, which produces a frequency adjustment signal. Col. 6, lines 7-10. This frequency adjustment signal is fed to a gating circuit 92. Col. 6, lines 10-11. In addition to receiving the frequency adjustment signal, the gating circuit 92 also receives a video synchronization signal 45. When the video synchronization signal 45 experiences a vertical blanking interval or a front porch, the gating circuit 92 passes the frequency adjustment signal to a controlled oscillator 94. Col. 6, lines 10-18. It is the controlled oscillator 94 that produces the decoding clock signal 54. Col. 6, lines 18-21. Based on the frequency adjustment signal, the controlled oscillator 94 slews (i.e. adjusts) the frequency of the decoding clock signal. Col. 6, lines 23-29. In this manner, the frequency of the decoding clock signal 54 is adjusted during a time in which the video synchronization signal is experiencing a vertical blanking interval or a front porch.

Several points should be noted with regard to Leske. First of all, note that unlike claim 1, the methodology of Leske does not receive a request from a component to adjust an operational parameter of that component. In Leske, there is nothing that can be reasonably interpreted to be a request. The closest thing to such a request would be the frequency adjustment signal, but this signal is not requesting or asking for anything. It is merely a signal that can be applied to the controlled oscillator 94 to adjust the frequency of the decoding clock signal 54 that is produced by that oscillator. Typically, a request asks for some sort of response. The frequency adjustment signal of Leske is not asking for nor is it expecting any type of response. Thus, Applicants submit that the frequency adjustment signal cannot be reasonably interpreted to be a request.

Second, even if the frequency adjustment signal could somehow be interpreted to be a request, it would not be a request from a component to adjust an operational parameter of that component, as required by claim 1. In Leske, it is the error signal generator 91 that sends the frequency adjustment signal. When it sends this signal, the error signal generator 91 is not asking to have one of its own operational parameters adjusted. Rather, it is causing the operational parameter of another component (the controlled oscillator 94) to be adjusted. Thus, unlike claim 1 in which the request is received from a component that is wishing to adjust one of its own operational parameters, the frequency adjustment signal in Leske is a signal to adjust an operational parameter of another component. There is no component in Leske that is requesting to adjust one of its own operational parameters.

Third, note that unlike claim 1, no response is sent in Leske. When the gating circuit 92 (the component in Leske that receives the frequency adjustment signal) detects a vertical blanking interval or a front porch in the video synchronization signal 45, it

merely passes the frequency adjustment signal on to the controlled oscillator 94. The gating circuit 92 does not send anything back to the error signal generator 91 (the component that sent the frequency adjustment signal). Thus, even if the frequency adjustment signal could somehow be interpreted to be a request, there is nothing in Leske that can be reasonably interpreted to be a response.

As the above discussion clearly shows, unlike the method of claim 1, Leske does not operate in accordance with a request-response paradigm. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Leske, taken individually.

Applicants further submit that claim 1 is also patentable over Shelton, taken individually. Nothing in Shelton discloses or suggests the aspects of claim 1 discussed above, and the Examiner has made no assertion that such aspects are disclosed by Shelton. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Shelton, taken individually.

Even if Leske and Shelton were combined (assuming for the sake of argument only that it would have been obvious to combine the references), they still would not give rise to the method of claim 1. As argued above, neither reference discloses or suggests several aspects of claim 1. Thus, even if the references were combined, the combination still would not show every aspect of claim 1. For at least this reason, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Leske and Shelton, taken individually or in combination.

Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2-17, which depend from claim 1, and which recite further advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Leske and Shelton for at least the reasons given above in connection with claim 1.

Independent claims 18, 37, and 38 contain limitations similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 18, 37, and 38 are patentable over Leske and Shelton for at least the reasons given above in connection with claim 1.

Applicants further submit that dependent claims 19-34, which depend from claim 18, and which recite further advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Leske and Shelton for at least the reasons given above in connection with claim 18.

ALLOWED AND ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

In the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 35 and 36 were allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for this acknowledgement.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 4, 10, 12, 14, 21, 27, 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants also thank the Examiner for this indication; however, in view of the above arguments, Applicants do not believe that any such amendments to claims 4, 10, 12, 14, 21, 27, 29 and 30 are necessary.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all pending claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

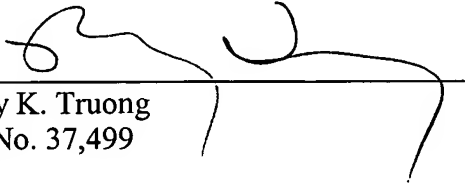
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issue that may advance prosecution.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in connection with this response to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: April 5, 2006


Bobby K. Truong
Reg. No. 37,499

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, California 95125-1089
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1080 ext. 234
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on April 5, 2006

By


Annette Jacobs